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Human Rights Performance: January 1977-July 1978

A Research Paper

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sion has been permitted. But the regime is being haunted by lingering protests over the issue of "disappeared" persons and by growing controversy over the implications of the Letelier murder investigation.

In *Chile* the Pinochet government has made substantial progress in eliminating egregious human rights violations. These advances, responding to a variety of internal and external pressures, include:

- An end to the state of siege and a reduction of the curfew.
- An amnesty for political prisoners affecting hundreds of persons, and official consent for exiles to return to Chile.
- A sweeping reorganization and reform of the intelligence service previously responsible for much of Chile's human rights abuses.
- Civilian appointments to the Cabinet, including the key Interior Ministry that is responsible for the country's principal intelligence service.
- Announcement of plans to accelerate completion of a new constitution, to submit it for approval by plebiscite, and to advance the timetable for a transition to elected government.
- Preparation of a new labor code and plans to reinstitute collective bargaining by early 1979.
- Permission for a UN Human Rights Commission delegation to visit Chile.

While political party and labor union activities are still tightly restricted, controls on the press have been relaxed and greater political discus-

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